



United States Department of the Interior

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To: All Field Managers

From: State Director

Subject: Clarification of IM No. 2001-153 Policy and Safety Standards for the Procurement of Radio Towers

All procurements of radio towers shall be reviewed by the S.O. for compliance with IM No. 2001-153. All radio/communication towers shall meet TIA/EIA-222-F for structural/ construction standards and 29 CFR 1910.27/28 and ANSI A14.3 . All procurements of monopoles shall meet 29 CFR 1910.268 and TIA/EIA-222-F and ANSI Z359.1. All new towers/monopoles shall have both a fixed ladder and a fall protection device/system meeting these standards.

1. Equipment Standards

- a. **TIA/EIA-222-F Structural Standards for Steel Antenna Towers and Antenna Supporting Structures** is the structural standard dealing with the engineering aspects of building a tower/monopole. How it is made and constructed, the strength of the material it is made out of, and the stresses and antenna loading it's required to handle.
- b. **29 CFR 1910.27/28 OSHA Standards for Fixed Ladders** is the standard that explains the requirements for fixed ladders and the associated safety climb devices which are attached to the tower/monopole meeting TIA/EIA-222-F.
- c. **ANSI Z359.1 Safety Requirements for Personal Fall Arrest Systems, Subsystems and Components** is the standard that establishes the requirements for the performance, design, training, maintenance, and inspection of full body harnesses, energy absorbers, lanyards, and connecting devices, etc. which comprise a personal fall arrest system. This is the equipment that would allow a climber to free climb a monopole while still having fall arrest i.e. the climber would still be attached to the monopole/tower if they were to fall.
- d. **ANSI A14.3 American National Standards Institute Safety Requirements for Fixed Ladders** is the standard covering the minimum "design" requirements for fixed ladders i.e. the strength of the material used and how the ladder is attached to the tower, etc.

2. Safety Requirements for all personnel

- a. All personnel shall comply with climbing rules and regulations in the performance of their duties.
- b. Under **NO** circumstances shall any personnel free climb a tower or monopole.
- c. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shall be used when performing climbing duties i.e. leather gloves, hard sole shoes/boots, long pants, hard hat, and appropriate OSHA/ANSI approved fall arrest/protection equipment.
- d. Personnel shall check in with the appropriate DISPATCH facility before climbing for the purpose of conducting a “well fare” check while in climbing status.
- e. (JHA) Job Hazard Analysis/evaluations shall be performed before conducting climbing operations.

For additional information, contact the State Radio Manager, Dexter Dearth, at 916-978-4557.

Signed by:
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